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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

MIM-096-72

TO : Director, Domestic Contact Service DATE: 5 July 1972
ATTN : OSS (LGrant)

FROM : Chief, Miami Field Office

SUBJECT: Gordon Cooper and Associates

REF : OOA(S) 322/16265-72

1. On 22 June 1972 we met at some length with Leroy Gordon Cooper, President, Gordon Cooper and Associates, Hangar One, Opa-Locka Airport, Opa-Locka, Florida. A peripheral benefit of this meeting was the acquisition of additional information concerning Gordon Cooper and Associates (GCA) which may have a bearing on the referenced OOA(S) and possibly on future clandestine interest in the organization.

2. GCA was formed roughly two years ago as an aerospace and airline management consultant firm. Cooper stated that the organization may be disbanded shortly because of disagreements between Cooper and one of his partners, Mel Adler. Adler supposedly is a stock manipulator who, Cooper feels, comes close to operating outside the law and therefore not the type of person with whom Cooper desires to associate. Adler has refused to sell his stock in GCA and to disassociate himself with GCA so the firm will probably be allowed to simply run out of business. GCA will be replaced with Gordon Cooper Consultants Corporation which will be incorporated either in Nevada or the Republic of Panama. The activities will remain the same and a Miami office will be maintained.

3. In addition to activities within his own firm, Cooper is a member of the Board of Directors of Casino Management International (CMI), Grand Cayman Island. CMI is controlled and operated by Edward (mmu) Cellini, Robert (mmu) Cellini, and Dino (mmu) Cellini and its activities center around the establishment and operation of gambling casinos throughout the world. Cooper claims that he has assured himself that CMI operates within the limits of US laws even though they are headquartered in Grand Cayman and that the Cellini brothers, all US citizens, are law abiding businessmen operating a legitimate business. He claims that there is full disclosure of all personnel connected with the organization, an "open books" policy is maintained with the US Internal Revenue Service and they cooperate completely with the FBI. Cooper frankly stated that [illegible] for the use of his name and his ability to capitalize on [illegible] during his astronaut days to introduce CMI to individuals [illegible] of government in countries throughout the world.

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4. Cooper has recently been instrumental in the establishment of a casino in Istanbul, Turkey, and he is currently assisting in the negotiations for the establishment of additional casinos in Ankara and Izmir. CMI now operates a casino in Yugoslavia and is bidding on the establishment of an additional one in a Yugoslav location which Cooper cannot recall. In conjunction with CMI, Cooper is working on the establishment of a travel club which would, in addition to offering tour packages to various parts of the world, offer junkets to gambling casinos. CMI would fund the travel expenses of those individuals who could be counted upon to gamble heavily at CMI casinos. As an aside, Cooper mentioned that CMI has "fantastic" files on individuals in all parts of the world who are known to be habitual gamblers. These files include their spending habits, income and outgo and general financial situation.

5. The Haitian airline possibility as reported in referent has no connection with CMI. Cooper is very interested in the project, is pursuing it personally and expects to have some definite word from the Government of Haiti after a trip to Haiti within the next week or two. If the deal reaches fruition, Cooper will be closely associated in Haiti with one Norman Dupree, a Canadian citizen who allegedly is the former president of the telephone company in Haiti and who has extremely close ties with the Haitian government.

6. Cooper reiterated and emphasized his willingness to cooperate with the Agency in whatever manner would be most appropriate. He said that he felt very strongly about such cooperation and that we should feel at complete liberty to approach him personally at any time on any matter of interest to CIA. Bio data is being forwarded.

Bruce E. Mainwaring

BRUCE E. MAINWARING

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